



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, April 8, 2008**

**08-51**

**ANCHORAGE MAN SENTENCED TO 70 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON  
FOR BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on April 7, 2008, Deven Talafili Suesue, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 70 months for his conviction for being felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess imposed the sentence on Suesue, age 25, of 5006 Wesleyan Drive, Anchorage, Alaska.

According to Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White, who prosecuted the case, the evidence presented at trial established that Suesue possessed two Russian SKS 7.62 X 39 mm semi-automatic rifle; a Ruger Model Mini-14, .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle; a Ruger Model 10-22, .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle, which was loaded with 25 rounds .22 caliber ammunition; 11 rounds of .223 caliber ammunition; and 30 rounds of assorted 9 mm ammunition. The defendant kept the firearms and ammunition in his home, where the State of Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) had permitted him to serve his sentence for his December 24, 2006 felony convictions in state court. The defendant had entered into a contract with DOC, which required him to wear an electronic monitor and prohibited the possession of firearms and alcohol in the home designated for his house arrest. In addition to the firearms and ammunition, law enforcement also found bottles of alcoholic beverages in the defendant's home.

At trial, the defendant testified that, though he had owned these firearms for hunting before his state felony conviction, he had disposed of them in November of 2005, out of concern for the safety of his minor child. An investigation into the defendant's criminal history, however, revealed that the Anchorage Police Department, while investigating a shooting that led to the defendant's 2006 state felony convictions, found a rifle, a shotgun, and a 9mm Glock handgun in the defendant's residence in February of 2006.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Burgess noted that the defendant had been given an opportunity by the State of Alaska when they permitted him to serve his sentence on house arrest. Instead of utilizing the opportunity to his advantage, he chose to continue his criminal activities. Additionally, Judge Burgess noted a need to protect the community. In addition to the sentence of imprisonment, the District Court ordered forfeiture of all firearms and ammunition seized during the course of this investigation.

Mr. Cohen commended the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as the State of Alaska Department of Corrections, for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Suesue. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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